

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for generating a device user interface executable by an information handling system, comprising:

- a processor for executing instructions on the information handling system and
- a memory coupled to said processor for storing instructions for execution by said processor;
- a device database including listing available user interface components for implementing control functions of a device coupled to the information handling system;
- a resource database including the user interface components;
- a user interface generator for determining whether the device is included in said device database and for retrieving the user interface components for that device from said resource database; and
- a layout manager for assembling the user interface components retrieved by said user interface generator into a user interface executable by the information handling system to control the device.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is a multimedia device controlled by the information handling system.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said device database is created without requiring user intervention.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said resource database is created without requiring user intervention.

5. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the user interface components of said resource database comprise discrete objects.

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means for assembling the implementing means retrieved by said determining and generating means into a user interface executable by the information handling system to control the device.

10. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the implementing means comprises a discrete object variable.

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1 11. A computer implemented method for generating a device user interface
2 for an information handling system, comprising:
3 identifying a device coupled to the information handling system to be
4 controlled by the user interface;
5 comparing the identified device to a database of devices for which user
6 interface resource components are available for implementing the functions of the
7 device and determining whether the device is listed in the database;
8 retrieving user interface components for implementing functions of the device;
9 and
10 creating the user interface from the user interface components.

1 12. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the steps of, in
2 the event the device is not listed in the database, determining whether a similar device
3 similar to the device is listed in the database; in the event a similar device is not listed
4 in the database, executing said generic device user interface components retrieving
5 step; otherwise, executing said device specific user interface components retrieving
6 step.

1 13. A method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of
2 displaying the user interface on a display coupled to the information handling system
3 such that a user may control the device with the user interface.

1 14. A method as claimed in claim 11, said creating step being implemented
2 without requiring user intervention.

1 15. A method as claimed in claim 11, the user interface components
2 comprising discrete objects.

1 16. A computer implemented program of instructions storable on a
2 computer readable medium and executable by an information handling system, the
3 contents of the program of instructions causing an information handling system to
4 execute steps for generating a device user interface for the information handling
5 system, the steps comprising:
6 identifying the device coupled to the information handling system to be
7 controlled by the user interface;
8 comparing the identified device to a database of devices for which user
9 interface resource components are available for implementing the functions of the
10 device and determining whether the device is listed in the database;
11 retrieving user interface components for implementing specific functions of
12 the device; and
13 creating the user interface from the assembled user interface components.

1 17. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 16, the steps further
2 comprising the steps of, in the event the device is not listed in the database,
3 determining whether a similar device similar to the device is listed in the database; in
4 the event a similar device is not listed in the database, executing said generic device
5 user interface components retrieving step; otherwise, executing said device specific
6 user interface components retrieving step.

1 18. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 16, the steps further
2 comprising the step of displaying the user interface on a display coupled to the
3 information handling system such that a user may control the device with the user
4 interface.

1 19. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 16, said assembling step
2 being implemented without requiring user intervention.

1 20. A program of instructions as claimed in claim 16, the user interface
2 components comprising discrete objects.